

What Is Claimed Is:

1. Message device (1) for an item of furniture for sitting and/or lying on, having
  - a. a first shaft (2) and a second shaft (3) which are supported parallel with one another in a frame (4),
  - b. at least one arm (5) which carries at least one message body (6),
  - c. the arm being coupled to the two shafts in such a manner that a rotation of the shafts brings about a message movement of the message body in a first and/or second direction,
  - d. and means for displacing the message body relative to the frame,
- characterized in that
  - e. the means for displacing the message body relative to the frame are formed by means (16, 18, 19) for changing the distance between the two shafts.
2. Message device according to claim 1, characterized in that the arm (5) carries the message body (6) at one end and is coupled to the first shaft (2) at the other end.
3. Message device according to claim 1, characterized in that the arm (5) carries the message body (6) at one end and is coupled to the first shaft (2) at the other end, and the arm is also in operative contact with the second shaft (3) in a central region.
4. Message device according to claim 1, characterized in that the rotation of the one shaft (2) brings about a movement of the message body (6) which takes place substantially parallel with the shaft, while the rotation of the other shaft brings about a movement of the message body which takes place substantially perpendicularly to the shaft.

5. Massage device according to claim 1, characterized in that one of the two shafts (2, 3) is supported displaceably on the frame.

5 6. Massage device according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for changing the distance between the two shafts comprise a motor (18) for displacing one of the two shafts.

10 7. Massage device according to claim 1, characterized in that the arm (5) carries the massage body (6) at one end and is connected in an articulated manner to the first shaft (2) at the other end and, in an intermediate region, the arm (5) is also in operative contact with the second shaft (3) by way of a linkage (7).

15 8. Massage device according to claim 1, characterized in that the two shafts (2,3) are driven independently of one another by means of a respective gear motor (8, 9).